



## BAMPTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY SHOP

*At the heart of the village*



## It's goodbye from us!



Dear Lowdown readers in Bampton and beyond,

After some careful consideration, we have decided that this will be the last issue of The Lowdown.

We launched the newsletter last year at the start of the pandemic. We wanted to provide the people of Bampton with a way of connecting with essential services, and above all with each other. The last 14 months have been very rewarding, and we carried on as a small group of volunteers, encouraged by your kind words of support and by the donations which helped us pay for the printing and the distribution of The Lowdown.

But things move on, the pandemic is hopefully nearing its end and we are returning to a semblance of normality. Adam, who has been instrumental in putting to bed the publication every month, has moved away from Bampton, and as more personal work demands have been put on the rest of the team, it has become clear that we could not sustain the production of the newsletter alone.

Our appeal for volunteers has been unsuccessful so far so, with regret, we agreed unanimously that this will be the last issue of The Lowdown. Any unused funds will be returned to sponsors or given to a local charity.

We feel privileged to have served the community.

Thank you!

Adam, Ally, Maurizio and Sue

Our contact channels are still very much open, so if you would like to consider taking The Lowdown forward, do please email us at [thelockdownpress@gmail.com](mailto:thelockdownpress@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you!



**LOVE IS IN THE AIR (AND ON THE GROUND!) ....**  
G-W popular type VII biplane in Weald during 1914. The pilot had been coming to court a lady from one of Bampton's leading families and while showing off he crashed his plane.

## INSIDE OUR FAREWELL ISSUE

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# BAMPTON CHARITY SHOP

## A REMINDER ABOUT WHAT WE CAN AND CAN'T ACCEPT AS DONATIONS

As you can imagine, we have been receiving lots of donations since we have reopened.

People are very generous and give us some fantastic donations. But recently we have received some rather odd and frankly unsavoury items including a pair of men's soiled underpants, broken and chipped china and glass, a huge pile of old newspapers, a car tyre, and a used baby's nappy!

None of the recycling companies take rags anymore, only usable, wearable items and we have to pay to have our general waste removed.

I wanted to remind and update everyone on our current guidelines:



### ITEMS THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT

ELECTRICAL ITEMS	DAMAGED BOOKS	NIGHTWEAR/UNDERWEAR
STAINED, SOILED, DAMAGED CLOTHES AND LINENS	MAGAZINES	FADED & SUN BLEACHED CURTAINS
ANY ITEMS THAT ARE BROKEN, CRACKED OR CHIPPED	SUITCASES	DUVETS & PILLOWS (CUSHIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE)
BROKEN TOYS/GAMES	CD RACKS	CRASH HELMETS (CYCLE & MOTORCYCLE)
INCOMPLETE JIGSAWS	FURNITURE	CAR SEATS
	USED TOILETRIES	
	RAGS	

For larger items that we don't have room to display, we are happy to advertise these in the shop.

If you bring in a card with the details and a photo, if possible, we will display this on our noticeboard.

Thank you for your understanding and thank you for all the generous support you give to the shop, and to the fantastic team of volunteers who make it the success that it is.

The money we raise goes back to support so many worthy causes in the community. We are now in our fifth year and since we opened have been able to put back over £130,000 into the local Community.

Absolutely amazing and long may it last.

Jenny Chaundy, Bampton Village Community Shop, 01993 850918

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### OUR TRIBUTE TO THE MANY SPONSORS WHO HAVE FUNDED THE LOWDOWN

As you know, we have never included paid adverts in the Lowdown since its inception and have relied on the tremendous generosity of both local businesses and individual donors to fund the publication of each and every issue of your Bampton newsletter.

As the outgoing production team, we would like to pay special tribute to our various sponsors without whose support the Lowdown would never have started nor continued. There are many people who have donated privately and anonymously; you know who you are and our gratitude is no less heartfelt. To all of you we say: Thank you so very much.

BAMPTON AID NETWORK

M & I TEUCHTER

TREVOR MILNE-DAY

SPAJERS

BAMPTON NEWSPAPERS

MONTGOMERIE PODIATRY

MOLLIES MOTEL & DINER

BAMPTON GAS

WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

BAMPTON PHYSIOTHERAPY

THE SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF BAMPTON

ROSEBANK CARE HOME

POWERPLAY COACHING

ST. MARYS ORGAN  
RESTORATION FUND

THE DOUBLE RED DUKE  
CLANFIELD

ST MARY'S COURT

VICKY'S HOLIDAY CLUB

CHANDLER CLOSE  
PARTY ANIMALS

BAMPTON COMMUNITY  
VILLAGE SHOP

DAVID PULLMAN

JOHN BLAKE



# LOWDOWN QUESTION TIME

The Lowdown asks questions about matters that affect us all.

This month we ask:

**RUPERT DENT, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

*TL: People often get confused with regard to what the West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) is responsible for as opposed to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). Roads are particularly problematic and this is OCC's responsibility. Could you clarify the areas of responsibility and also whether there are communication lines between the two bodies?*

RD: As a very recently elected and first time District Councillor, I am learning about the different responsibilities myself! In general terms, however, the District Council deals with your more immediate environment, like housing, leisure, recreation, environmental health, waste collection and planning. We do not have responsibility for roads or transport (a County Council remit). But one thing I can say without any hesitation is that there are very good lines of communication between the OCC and the WODC in our Ward of Bampton, Black Bourton and Clanfield.



Probably the most user-friendly explanation of the different responsibilities of the County Council and the District Council in the shire areas, can be summarised in the following table:

Function	County Council	District Council
Education	X	
Highways	X	
Transport planning	X	
Passenger transport	X	
Social care	X	
Housing		X
Libraries	X	
Leisure and recreation		X
Environmental health		X
Waste collection		X
Waste disposal	X	
Planning applications		X
Strategic planning	X	
Local taxation collection		X

*TL: Recycling is something we seem to be good at in our district. Are there plans to improve it further and to offer the ability to recycle even more in the future?*

RD: In a word, yes. WODC is one of a group of local councils that are working together on a combined strategy for the recycling of waste as part of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership's stated strategy for dealing with waste

*TL: Local people are worried about their environment and in recent months; there have been several instances for example of river pollution caused by effluent. What is WODC doing about this?*

RD: WODC is working with the relevant water and waste utilities on reducing river pollution. One particular example of this is in Clanfield where both the County and District Councils and our Member of Parliament have engaged with Thames Water in order to improve the quality of water in the Marsh Land West Ditch. Recent water testing has confirmed there is an issue that needs to be resolved. Thames Water have a plan they are working through to deal with the problem, and we will continue to monitor their progress.

*TL: WODC has planning responsibilities and rural villages like ours have seen, with the easing of planning restrictions, an abundance of new homes being built which are not necessarily affordable; in addition, questionable (if appropriate) provisions for local infrastructure to grow apace were made. Has the DC fully managed to maximise value from developers, and what is your take on this point?*

RD: Since the Local Plan was adopted in September 2018 the District Council has in fact had a much greater degree of control over development than it did in the previous two or three years. This is when planning permission was granted on the building activities that we see in progress today. A review of the Local Plan is scheduled to take place and will begin during the course of 2021. It is important that the review is completed in order for the District Council to retain its improved level of control, which is largely based on there being a demonstrable and current plan in place. Based on what I have learned so far about planning, my take as a Bampton resident is that we have provided our fair share of necessary development. As to whether the DC fully managed to maximise value from developers, I do not know the historical facts about previous negotiations, and am therefore not able to make a sound judgement on the matter. Often the developers themselves are working on relatively low margins compared to the landowners who sell land for development. Certainly prior to September 2018 and the local plan being in place, the leverage that the Council was able to bring to bear in any negotiation on developers paying for additional infrastructure, would undoubtedly have been compromised.

**The current Oxfordshire Environment Partnership's stated strategy for dealing with waste has five specific aims:**

- 1) We will work with residents to reduce the waste produced by each household and maximise the amount of waste reused
- 2) We will maximise the amount of waste that is recycled or composted and we will recover energy from the remainder in order to minimise the amount sent to landfill
- 3) We will work together, with local communities and service providers, to improve waste management services across the county ensuring that we become more economic, efficient, effective and that waste is managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy
- 4) We will prepare for population growth by embedding circular economy principles into our activities and considering innovative ways of reducing, reusing and recycling more of our waste
- 5) We will work to improve the local environment for all residents through effective communications and enforcement activity

# The Society for The Preservation of Ancient Junketing

## SPAJERS: Thanks and Farewells

**Don Rouse writes:** Being a member of the Spajers Committee for over fifty years, I have met a lot of wonderful volunteers who have given of their time, thoughts and labour to keep our activities 'up with the times'. All the changes and challenges that are caused by legislation, Insurance and our 'pain in the butt' "Elf an Safety" have to be dealt with. This is where we are totally reliant on a good Chair, because we all know that the 'buck stops with him/her'.



Our retiring Chairman **MAT GREEN** has taken us safely through all these problems for the last 14 years. Nothing ever phases him, problems both big and small have been dealt with as just simple 'hic-ups' and always with a sense of humour. This attitude is always reassuring for those of us that are being led by him and instils in us the confidence to overcome. He has been a great leader and I and all the volunteer members have enjoyed the inspiration and privilege of working with him.

It was Mat's initiative that revived Bampton's Firework Night. The first two years of his chairmanship saw the beginning of the successful garage sales that other organisations have now taken on. The list is of what he has done to improve the activities of our unique organisation is endless. I am a firm believer in the old adage that, 'it's not what you know but who' that is important in life. Mat with his contacts in the folk music world and his job with the Environment Agency, to say nothing about his incredible personality and standing with the people of Bampton, have opened the door to many people and organisations that have been of great help to the Spajers. A good yardstick to measure the ability of a Chairman is to look at what condition the committee was in when he took over and what it is like when he leaves. Well on that score Mat comes out tops. We have an abundance of young people with enthusiasm and the verve to take us forward into the future creating fun and raising money for our old folks. I know that they have all been inspired by Mat.

**So Mat and Jackie, enjoy your well earned retirement. You have done the Spajers and the people of Bampton proud.**

Thanks to **LYNNE POINTER** who recently retired as Secretary of SPAJERS. This is the first time in my fifty years' membership of the Spajers that I have had to say thank you to two of our most stalwart members. Lynne joined us back in 2006 and very quickly, due to her ability as a person who gets things done, was appointed Vice Chair in 2008. She then followed that by taking on the job of Secretary.

The legacy she leaves with the Spajers is that I just do not know how we managed to operate without her. As part of that legacy Lynne has passed on to our new committee members, a form of 'Spreadsheet' which she created, whereby each month we are reminded of what needs to be done and when. It is a very important document and will facilitate the smooth running of the events that are ahead.

Lynne has always been the first to volunteer for anything that needs to be done and has always impressed us with the most efficient way these jobs can be achieved. She took on the onerous task of organising the 'Old folks' outings, now that really does take patience and understanding. Many people will say they are going on the outings and then do not appear, leaving Lynne with the problem of how long to keep the Bus waiting, just in case they are still coming. Lynne has always handled these situations with great kindness and understanding which has been appreciated by our members. Of course Lynne can boast that she has never left any of our pensioners behind.

The thing about Lynne that has impressed us most is her efficiency. No matter whether it is distributing the invitations for the Coach Trips to our members, or the annual Christmas payouts reaching their safe destination. She is the person who would make it happen with speed and her inimitable efficiency.

**Lynne, we are so grateful for all you have done for us and hope that you will take pride and comfort in the improvement of the operational abilities that you have instilled into the Bampton Spajers.**

## THE PERFECT LOCKDOWN ANTIDOTE FOR YOUR PHYSICAL & MENTAL WELLBEING ON YOUR DOORSTEP IN OXFORDSHIRE!



**STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING** or 'SUP' has taken the nation by storm and is now the fastest growing sport worldwide. It's easy to see why: not only does it allow for natural social distancing in the great outdoors, it also offers the chance to boost your mental wellbeing allowing you to breathe and clear your head. With the convenience and accessibility of inflatable boards, you can just get on enjoy quality time with your family in amazing, memorable locations.

But did you know that you can experience the enormous mental and physical wellbeing of SUP just 15 miles from Bampton at Farmoor Reservoir with the Oxford SUP Club? Even better, part of the team at Oxford SUP Club is Bampton resident Moira who, in her role as senior instructor will be able to give you all the confidence and skills to get paddling.

Established in 2015, Oxford SUP Club is a recognised BSUPA SUP school and is Oxfordshire's leading paddle boarding centre. Lessons are available as either small group or private sessions for beginner, intermediate and advanced paddlers for all ages from ten years and above (must be accompanied on the water by parent/guardian) and the Club's qualified and experienced SUP instructors will get you on the water and paddling with confidence on your first lesson.

Once you have completed your beginner lesson, and you would like to learn more, the Club also runs Wednesday evening tours on Oxford's stunning and undiscovered waterways and a fun Sunday morning social session at their base at Farmoor Reservoir where you can develop your confidence and enhance your skills in a fun, friendly and healthy environment. For those who are keen to take the next step in purchasing their own SUP board and equipment, the Oxford SUP Club is proud to be one of the industry's most reputable and respected stockists. Not only do we offer impartial advice and sales, but being right by the water we are able to provide a 'try before you buy' service.



So, what are you waiting for?! After just two hours in our beginner 'Ready to Ride' lesson, you will be up on your feet AND enjoying the great outdoors and learning a skill that may have been on your 'to do' list! **Plus, from 1st - 30th June 'Lowdown' readers can enjoy an exclusive 10% discount when booking a lesson online at [www.oxfordsupclub.org](http://www.oxfordsupclub.org) USING CODE: bampton10%**



Competition Time!!

## ~The Cotswold Gin Pantry ~

WIN A GIN EXPERIENCE FOR TWO!

The Cotswold Gin Pantry is based at The Plough Inn at Kelmscott.

We offer a range of activities such as Blend Your Own and personalised Gin Tastings.

If you like the idea of a completely unique gin, arrange a Gin Blending session with our resident gin maker, and with his advice you will end up with a drink tailor made for your own taste buds which can be ordered time and time again.

We also offer Gin Tasting Experiences – you taste one of the first original gins plus five others alongside a range of different tonics and accompaniments.

Great fun for a girls' night out, family events and lots more. We can also organise larger events off site.

The draw will take place on the 30th June – get your entries in.....

**WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE LOWDOWN FACEBOOK PAGE!!**

Send your name and contact number to: [alison@ginpantry.co.uk](mailto:alison@ginpantry.co.uk)

Visit our website: [www.ginpantry.co.uk](http://www.ginpantry.co.uk) or like us on Instagram/Facebook.

Gin Pantry has over 400 Gins plus our own Gin in a Tin range  
– Come and visit us soon!! –



## ~ Cocktail in Your Cupboard ~ The Mojito

The Mojito was invented at about the same time as mint sauce as a way to use up a plant that takes over your garden quicker than dandelions.

OK, so that's not true, but it IS an excellent way of making tidying the garden more bearable: Cut the mint back, smash it up with rum or gin and sip it while sitting back and admiring your handiwork. Fresh mint tea is a wonderful non-alcoholic alternative.

The Mojito is full of possibilities: if you have mint and white rum, then you can make just about any variation to suit your taste with whatever you can find in the cupboard.

The basic ingredients (for 1 Mojito):

50ml White Rum eg Bacardi

About 10 Mint leaves (or more if you like)

30ml lemon or lime juice (preferably fresh)

25ml simple syrup (or to taste)

60ml Soda Water (enough to fill the glass)

Method: Crush the mint in a tall glass. Add the rum, lemon juice and syrup. Fill the glass with ice cubes. Top up with soda water. Stir to mix well, garnish with a sprig of mint and serve. You can adjust the amount of any of the ingredients to suit your taste

Variations: This is the really good bit! You can replace the soda water with Prosecco or Champagne to make a Mojito Royale. You can also add fruit. My favourite drink of all time is the Raspberry Mojito Royale. Crush raspberries in with the mint, add a splash of Chambord liqueur if you have it, then use Champagne or Prosecco to top up.

If you don't have raspberries, try a dessert spoon of raspberry jam.

The world is your oyster on this one – mango, blueberry, strawberry, ginger... have a go with any of it!



The perfect month to pick strawberries, salad greens and radishes. Spend time weeding and energising tired lawns with fertiliser. In hot weather water those pots regularly!

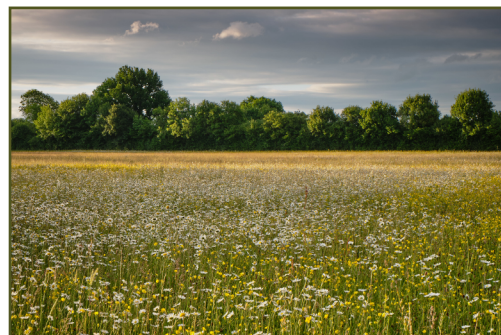
Last chance to plant summer flowering plants and time to divide clumps of bulbs. Move tomatoes outdoors.

Make sure you have plenty of ice and tonic water for that perfect G&T (or Mojito!) in the garden....



### LONG-RANGE WEATHER FORECAST

Frequent thunderstorms alternating with very hot days especially towards the end of the month, better weather in the north of England.



*'A wildflower meadow just past the garden centre on Buckland Road. It was taken in June last year so hopefully will look the same in a few weeks time' - David Greenwood*

## ALMANAC 10th June to 4th July

10 June - Solar Eclipse at 11:43  
New Moon

12 June - HM The Queen  
Official Birthday

13 June - Peasants' Revolt 1381

20 June - Father's Day

21 June - Summer Solstice

24 June - St John's Day  
Full Moon

26 June - Armed Forces Day

29 June - Feast of St Peter

4 July - US Independence Day

# Catching Up With - Nick Jones

Nick has lived in Bampton with his wife, the broadcaster Kirsty Young, since 2011.

He grew up in Surrey and on leaving school at 17, decided on a career in catering - which was then considered one of the least glamorous professions - but as he says "that's partly what attracted me to it, plus I'm obsessed with food!"



*Soho Farmhouse in Great Tew*

He spent eight years with Trusthouse Forte, ending as Marketing Manager of the Grosvenor House Hotel, and then started the Over The Top restaurant group. The Soho House brand for which he is best known was launched in 1995 with the first club above the Café Bohème restaurant in London. The Soho House Group now encompasses other London restaurants, Clubs in London and New York, and Soho House Hotels including Soho Farmhouse in Oxfordshire outside Great Tew.

In January 2019 Nick's most local project opened near Buckland - Mollie's Motel & Diner, which quickly became a popular place to stay and to eat for locals and visitors, strategically located off the A420. Nick's vision was to start an American-inspired chain of budget motels with American-style diner, serving all-day breakfasts, burgers, rotisserie chicken, milkshakes, alcoholic drinks and desserts. A second Mollie's is opening in Bristol at the Cribbs Causeway off the M5 in July.



The Soho House Group has also developed the Cowshed Spa and Salon along with a line of high-end Cowshed-branded hair and body products. All the group's rooms are supplied with the same accessories and linen, including the budget Mollie's Motel, which gives the Mollie's rooms a standard of comfort and luxury unique within their price range.

Like everyone in the hospitality industry, Nick has found the last 14 months challenging to say the least. Mollie's developed a very successful Drive-Thru operation which continues to grow but he is hugely relieved that the Soho House facilities are now re-opening after many months of uncertainty.

**Thank you Nick for talking to The Lowdown and best of luck with your new projects!**

## NEWS FROM BRIZE: C-17 CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN THE AIR



Wing Commander Kevin Latchman,  
Officer Commanding 99 Sqn

The 23rd May 2021 marked 20 years since the first C-17 Globemaster III arrived in Oxfordshire. "ZZ171" or "UK one" was flown by 99 Squadron from Boeing's Long Beach facility across the Atlantic to its new home at RAF Brize Norton.

The C-17 is a long-range, heavy-lift strategic transport aircraft, which can deliver enormous, outsized loads rapidly around the world, normally not accessible to an aircraft of its size. Today, 99 Squadron is one of only eight C-17 operators outside the USA, and the UK is the only nation in Europe to operate an independent fleet of C-17s. The C-17 is the most powerful aircraft in the RAF, capable of delivering strategic effect anywhere in the world in a matter of hours.

Since it entered service with the RAF, the C-17 has been vital in maintaining the airbridge between the UK and Operations overseas such as in Afghanistan and Gulf War II, as well as supplying numerous anti-terror Operations in Africa. But the C-17 has also delivered humanitarian aid around the world during countless natural disasters, such as providing support in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in 2017 or the aeromedical evacuation of critically ill British nationals during the Ebola crisis and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic, to name just a few.

Wing Commander Kevin Latchman, Officer Commanding 99 Squadron, said: "It's difficult to put into words the value the C-17 has provided over the last twenty years both to the UK and defence, but also to the countless number of people it has provided support to in

times of crisis, all over the world...Flying the C-17 is just as rewarding and exhilarating today as it was when I first qualified as a Co-Pilot in 2007."

**We wish the C-17 many more years of excellent service performance and are grateful to the servicemen and women at Brize Norton for their dedication and outstanding professional excellence.**



First RAF C-17 2001- ZZ171  
arrives at RAF Brize Norton



C-17 loaded with freight and personnel to  
support Operation Ruman, for humanitarian  
support of Hurricane Irma.



## TRANSFORMATIVE IDEAS FOR OUR HOMES FROM BECCY

Beccy from Chez Beccy shares her ideas on how transforming our homes can empower each one of us to follow our dreams and be the person we really want to be.

**'Our homes are a powerful reflection of who we really are.** When our environment reflects back to us our true selves, we feel empowered, safe and ready for anything. Ready to follow our dreams and be the person we really want to be. Doing this takes courage and strength as our minds try to keep us safe and hold us back. Our minds like us to do what we have done before, anything new and unfamiliar our minds tell us is scary and unsafe.



**Get rid of that clutter:** De-cluttering is a really powerful way to clear away things that we no longer need both physically and energetically. As we go through life, we gather clutter along the way. We get used to these things being there and forget to think about whether they are still needed. Before we know it, we have lots of stuff that was once cherished but is now no longer needed. De-cluttering can be so liberating, giving you space to breathe and most importantly creating space for something new!

**Top tip:** If you find it hard to part with items, place them in a cardboard box and date it. If in 3 months, you haven't looked in the box, it can definitely be recycled or thrown away!

**Bringing the outside in:** It's well known that being in nature can help reduce our stress levels. Indoor plants also have the same effect. House plants can create a calming and peaceful environment, enhancing our physiological well-being by improving our mood and decreasing our stress levels. Plants also increase the quality of the air we breathe. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, some plants even filter and remove some pollution in the air.

**Top tip:** If you find it tricky to keep plants alive start with a Peace Lilly. The leaves droop nicely when they need water.

**Less can be more:** Having a few items that are beautifully designed and of good quality is a pleasure and can bring us joy. By doing this we are showing that we value ourselves and we are important beings. Touching a gorgeous fabric, looking at a beautiful design moves us to connect back with who we really are. So much of life is about numbing our inner connection so we fit in with how the world wants us to behave and keep us in a box. We are not made to fit into a box! Few beautiful objects can reconnect us with our precious inner self.

For more information on Beccy's work, you can visit her website at [www.chezbeccy.com](http://www.chezbeccy.com) - She is also having a clearance sale on Sunday 13th June 10 am - 2 pm as part of the Bampton Village Garage Sale.



## LOCAL LEGENDS ~ Janet and Terry Rouse

There can be nobody in Bampton who better qualify for the title of Local Legends than Janet and Terry. The village is still mourning the passing of Terry in April last year, but with Janet's permission we are including Terry in our title, since in the half century that they were together, they inspired and supported each other tirelessly in their invaluable and truly remarkable contribution to the Bampton community. Janet tells us a little about their very special life together.

'I came to Bampton in August 1969 when I married Terry and he and his family came to live here in 1943 when he was 9 years old. Both our families have an ethos of trying to give time both usefully and generously to the town or village where you live and that is probably one of the main reasons we were married for almost 51 years.

As a farmer, Terry lived and worked in the community so felt a deep sense of belonging, of being part of a wider family, a Bampton family. From when he first came here, he joined St Mary's choir, became an Acolyte and then at age 11 he became a bell ringer and hardly missed a Sunday ringing or ringing for weddings, ringing the old year out and the New Year in (which meant at midnight he had to be stone cold sober) for 69 years. He held other posts in the church too; he was a server giving the chalice at Communion for 40 years.

In 1964 he offered the use of one of the barns for a Morris practice when it seemed as if it would never stop raining and he fell in love with the dancing and joined at once and first danced and then fooled until 2000 with Francis Shergold's side.

I learned to ring in October 1969, two months after we married in August 1969, and when we get back to ringing this month (June), virus situation permitting, I shall be in the tower clocking up 52 years as a ringer. After many years with no choir in St Mary's, David Byrt started it up again in 2002 and I joined at once.

In 2006 Jo Lewington saw me standing in the churchyard with my videocamera on a tripod and asked what I was doing. I was waiting to capture the men from Whites of Appleton arriving for the first day of the work on our wonderful bells and she asked if the Archive could have a copy of my film. I have to confess I was not aware of the Archive at that point but Jo and I began to film her conversations with Bampton people for the Archive and there are now almost 80 films on YouTube. In 2008 I took over entering items on to the database and since 2016 I have been steadily working to get almost 8,000 items from the database on to the Archive's website along with new items that always come my way. In the winter months, it was not uncommon for me to spend over 40 hours a week on work for the Archive. While caring for Terry these past few years I've not been able to give quite so many hours but will get back to it in the winter, when garden season is over.

Many of you will know the website Memories of Bampton; I have been putting items from the Archive's database on to this website for three or four years now and when I started there were 81 followers and now there are over 1,700 and I feel so lucky to do something that sparks so many memories, so many on-line conversations and not just from people who live in Bampton. When I want more detailed information about somebody or some organisation before posting it on to the Archive's website, I put it on Memories of Bampton and ask for help and it always comes. With our family of churches in Bampton, a great range of shops, a post office, butcher, osteopath, physiotherapist, a surgery with a dispensary, well over 60 clubs and societies - as the Lowdown and Bampton Aid Network have shown, I don't believe there is a better place to live.'

# West OX ARTS

## Artweeks and Upwards!

What a lovely start we have had to re-opening the Gallery. The Artweeks' show has been running very successfully throughout May - full of colour, interest, imagination and some poster realism. We have

welcomed over 550 visitors to our space in just three weeks!



Our next exhibition is a Pop Up Members' Exhibition. The members' New Work show will only run for two and a half weeks from 22nd June followed by a Ceramics Exhibition, from the middle of July so do please come and support us with your presence.

Of course, our Shop area will remain open throughout all the exhibitions.

This includes artists' cards, browsers with original prints, paintings and drawings, and the showcases with jewellery and other smaller items.

WOA is off to a great future ...

Let's keep it that way.

*Sarianne Durie*

Chair to the Trustees, West Ox Arts (WOA)

## ART UNLOCKED!

Faringdon Art Society is embracing release from lockdowns with a series of workshops designed to encourage aspiring artists and re-ignite existing artists' enthusiasm.

Basic drawing techniques, learning the secrets of 3D perspective and discovering the vitality of impressionistic watercolour are themes being explored.

**George Boyter:** art tutor

George will be in the picturesque village of

Little Coxwell on 10 July 2021 to guide both beginners and those who need to pick up their drawing tools again.

**Sheila Isabel Irigoyen Zozaya:** artist, architect and urban designer, Sheila will lead a workshop in September covering the pesky issue of managing 3D perspective. At a location of interest yet to be revealed, participants will have the opportunity to produce a village scene that 'looks right'!

**Catherine Beale:** Vibrant cascading watercolour techniques will be shared by Catherine in early October. Catherine has exhibited with the Royal Watercolour Society, Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour and is a member of Society of Women Artists. This should be a fun and colorful day for all involved!

Everyone is welcome but numbers are limited. Find out more at [www.faringdonartsociety.co.uk/upcoming-workshops](http://www.faringdonartsociety.co.uk/upcoming-workshops)

"Seeing, hearing, feeling, are miracles,  
and each part and tag of me is a miracle."  
Walt Whitman

ART IS GOOD FOR YOU

## IT'S THE IDEAL TIME TO JOIN FARINGDON ART SOCIETY

membership is only £10 per year

Informative art talks via zoom - next one 24th May

Face to face workshops planned for July, September & October

Art & Craft fair scheduled for August

Exhibition to buy and sell artwork in October

for further information contact

[WWW.FARINGDONARTSOCIETY.CO.UK](http://WWW.FARINGDONARTSOCIETY.CO.UK)  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FARINGDONARTSOCIETY](https://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FARINGDONARTSOCIETY)  
[FARINGDONARTSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FARINGDONARTSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM)



## Godcasting - or cheering a pandemic weary community

Bampton resident, Hazel Woodward, launched the first episode of the God's Rollercoaster podcast on Friday 30th April. The podcast shares stories of peoples' encounters with God in their everyday lives, with guests telling their candid stories of the ups, downs and highs and lows of their faith journeys.

After many years filled with a love of jotting down snippets and stories in journals and diaries, Hazel has one particularly treasured book full of memories of her family as they grew up. Now forty years later, reading a story in the book transports Hazel right back to the event, still holding the power to make her laugh. And this is how God's Rollercoaster was born.

Addressing challenges from all walks of life, from prison and panic disorders to domestic abuse and depression, stress at work and suicidal thoughts to baby loss and bereavement, the podcast shares stories of real people in real life.

Series 1 of the God's Rollercoaster podcast includes 9 episodes, each about an hour long.

To listen to the podcast, visit [www.godsrollercoaster.co.uk](http://www.godsrollercoaster.co.uk).



## Lou Steele Yoga

Bampton Pavilion & Recreation Ground (classes will be indoors weekly in the large, well ventilated Pavilion space - however when weather permits we can move outdoors to the beautiful grassy area)

Hatha Flow classes for beginners - intermediate.

Tuesdays: 6.15-7.15pm (Mixed level) & 7.30-8.45pm (Intermediate)

Wednesdays: 10-11.15am (Mixed level). Beginners welcome in Mixed level classes.

Class bookings via:

[www.lousteleyoga.com](http://www.lousteleyoga.com)

or call 07772 966039 for more info.

Private classes also available - only 1 more weekly slot left - contact me if interested.

## Flawless Finish Salon Giveaway Alert!

To celebrate the easing of lockdown and going back to normality, we have decided to do a giveaway. In our giveaway you can win yourself (or for someone else) a free colour, cut and finish! This includes any colour service and any type of haircut (even a restyle).

It is very simple to enter, follow these steps below:

- Head over to our Instagram or Facebook page and give us a follow. @flawlessfinishhair
- Find the post about this giveaway and tag 2 friends.

The giveaway will close on Thursday 24th of June.

The winner will be announced the following day on Friday 25th June.

Good Luck! The Flawless Finish Team

## Guy Lennon Counselling

As the 21st of June approaches, I feel the country is in a much safer place. Many of us have had two vaccines and feel happy to be out in the 'new normal'. I understand however that some of you will feel unsure and afraid. That is okay!

If you want to talk, I am here.

Guy Lennon, Resident Counsellor  
The Wellness Rooms (above Flawless Finish Salon in Broad Street).

[www.guylennoncounselling.co.uk](http://www.guylennoncounselling.co.uk)

## Bampton Coffee House Bella Bampton Pizzeria

We are now fully open with indoor and outdoor seating, and a wide range of food and drinks for breakfast, lunch and snacks.

Great pizza and dinner menu for collection and delivery! Why not come over and grab one of our freshly prepared pizzas.

Delivery areas Bampton, Aston, Clanfield, Brize Norton, Carterton Standlake, Buckland, Southmoor, there will be a small fee for some areas.

Please call the shop to order  
01993 850929

# Bampton the Bulletin Board

## Bampton SPAJERS Donkey Derby

SPAJERS is delighted to announce that we are planning for a Donkey Derby this year on 30th August, Bank Holiday Monday 2.00 - 5.00 pm on Sandfords Field (access from beside the library).



This will be a fantastic opportunity for the community to get together again and we hope you will join us for fun, games, a flutter on the donkeys, ice-creams and afternoon tea.

What better way to spend a Monday afternoon!

## Bampton Fire Station

A pic from drill (what we call our training), focusing on safe operation of our 13.5 metre ladder (that's about 40 feet in old money) and working at height.

We train every Wednesday, between 7 and 9 pm.



## CORONA COBRA UPDATE!!!

News just in from Krista Sullivan-Webb...

He has been laid in cement to be made into a permanent fixture on the new Taylor Wimpey estate.



*"The villagers of Bampton created art together.*

*Corona Cobra was there for us no matter what the weather.*

*A colourful, vibrant, community display,*

*during Lockdown 2020, he grew longer every day!"*

## Vicky's Holiday Club

### Summer Holidays 2021

Join us at Vicky's Holiday Club!  
Located at Aston & Cote Primary School  
from 8.30 am - 5.00 pm

Week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Week commencing 02 August 2021

Week commencing 09 August 2021

Week commencing 16 August 2021

Vicky's Holiday Club is open to all children aged 4-11 and will include fun activities, including arts and crafts, 2 hours of sports activities with a PE teacher, pottery painting with Crafty Cup, indoor and outdoor play, baking, and much more.  
Bring your own packed lunch (a light tea will be provided) £30.00 per day



To book contact Vicky Hickman

Call 07887711454 or

Email: [vickysholidayclubbookings@gmail.com](mailto:vickysholidayclubbookings@gmail.com)



All staff are DBS checked and first aid trained

[www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk](http://www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk)

## SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR BAMPTON AID NETWORK - BAN -



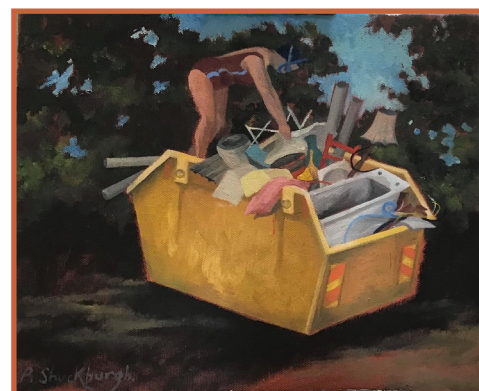
*We should like to express our thanks to the BAN Meal Team.*

*We have needed to shield and have, therefore, experienced isolation more than many, so we really appreciated the excellent weekly meals and contact over the last several months.*

*Well done, all of you!*

*Gratefully,*

*Roger and Marlene Snow*



'Skip Diver' by Pip Shuckburgh







## Bampton Folk Club - bringing music to the people

If you've spent the Covid months learning the Tongan Nose Flute, Hurdy-gurdy, or Contrabass Balalaika, come on down and join the Bampton Folk Club! They won't judge you and their meetings are a collaborative experience like traditional English/Irish/Scottish sessions with lots of players playing and singers singing together than the now more common "acoustic evenings" or "sing arounds". You get all the fun of being part of an amazing creative evening without the pressure of having to lead anything if you don't want to.

The Bampton Folk Club has also in the pipeline for the coming weeks and months some initiatives to help players continue, or start, their learning and expand their repertoire and build the confidence to join other sessions. The first one will be a "Slow Player" session. The session will be centred around learning tunes and all instruments are encouraged, not just the perceived traditional folk instruments like fiddles, mandolins and squeeze-boxes, at reduced tempo helping with basic playing skills and confidence and building of more advanced skills such as "playing by ear". The tempo will always be achievable even for the least confident of the group, so everybody can always play everything. Before you know it you'll be playing new tunes at a decent lick and making a truly wonderful noise together!

All necessary precautions will be taken to mitigate Covid-19 risks.

The Bampton Folk Club will also be putting on a show to raise funds for NHS workers through some of the charities and the Methodist Church who have agreed to host the concert. All being well, and restrictions easing further in the summer, you'll be entertained with an evening of the best in folk music and more besides on Saturday 10th July from 19:30. Entry is free and donations are welcomed (even if you're not able to come!) - <https://www.justgiving.com/bamptonfolkclubnhssing>.

The players and organisers would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Mike and Glynis from The Romany, especially as they offered the Club a proper place to play after the chill of the Village Hall. Since the closure of The Romany, the Folk Club evenings are kindly hosted by Charlie and Ali at The Horseshoe on Sunday from 7:30 pm.

If you want to know more about the Bampton Folk Club, you can give Calum a call on 07703 165799, or email them at [info@bamptonfolkclub.org.uk](mailto:info@bamptonfolkclub.org.uk) or simply visit their website [www.bamptonfolkclub.org.uk](http://www.bamptonfolkclub.org.uk)



## Traditional Bampton Morris Dancers

'These days the Bampton Morris sides are not often seen outside of the town, but should you be fortunate enough to find yourself in Bampton on a Spring Bank Holiday (the modern substitute for Whit Monday) you will be treated to one of the purest examples of a fine old English tradition as interpreted by different teams drawing upon their unique histories and traditions, and all with a passion worthy of the Morris.'



**SPRING BANK  
HOLIDAY  
31ST MAY  
2021**



Photos by Ally Bardsley,  
Maurizio Fantato and  
Angie Bell









## EMERGENCY AND HEALTH SERVICES

### Bampton Surgery

Call first on 01993 850257

Monday – Friday: 8.30am – 6.30pm

Saturday and Sunday: Closed

### Pharmacy

(Bampton Healthcare Ltd)

Tel: 01993 851961

Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm, 2pm to 6pm

Sat 9am to 12noon

### Bampton Post Office

Mon-Fri 09.00 – 17.30

Wed CLOSED

Sat 09.00 – 12.30

### Bampton Parish Council

Tel: 01993 851870

[www.bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

## NATURE WATCH

June – the month of baby **DEER**. It's now the peak time for deer to give birth, with all our resident species dropping their calves, fawns and kids this month. Remember the natural behaviour of these animals: they leave their young lying up in vegetation while they move off to feed. If you stumble across a baby deer this month, please just leave it where it is – the mother knows it's there and will be back to feed it later.



Young **FOXES** and **BADGERS** are also becoming increasingly bold in their explorations. There will also be juvenile **STOATS** and **WEASELS** around and you may be fortunate enough to

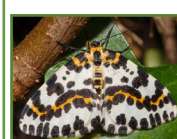
see young **MOLES** above ground as they search for a vacant territory, their breeding season having come to a close.

This is also the first peak in the **HEDGEHOG** birthing season. Hedgehogs are very active now and will appreciate any food and water



you're able to leave out for them in your garden. When putting food out, moderation is the key. Wet meaty cat or dog food is best, along with some dry cat or dog biscuits, or the special "hedgehog food" which many supermarkets and garden centres now sell.

**BATS** are very active at this time of year and even if you live in the middle of a town, take a few minutes to stand near a streetlight at dusk and chances are you'll see **PIPISTRELLES** zipping about catching insects. Many of our 16 species of bat will also be giving birth during this month. Around our coastlines the first **SEAL** pups of the year will be starting to appear.



There are lots of butterflies and moths around at the moment, including the striking black and orange **MAGPIE MOTH**, the red spotted **SIX-SPOT BURNET MOTH**, the fluorescent **ELEPHANT HAWKMOTH**, several species of **FRITILLARY** butterfly and the pale blue **LIGHT EMERALD MOTH**. There are also plenty of bees and flies on the wing, including **YELLOW DUNG FLIES**, **SNIPE FLIES**, **HONEY BEES** in huge colonies surrounding their queen, and **RED-TAILED BUMBLEBEES**.

Source: [www.wildlifeonline.me.uk](http://www.wildlifeonline.me.uk)

They're ready for the off!

**BAMPTON SPAJERS DONKEY DERBY**

**MONDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**  
**2.00 – 5.00 PM**

**SANDFORDS FIELD**

We can't wait to see you all again!

There will be donkeys, stalls, games and ice creams. Why not come and relax in the tea tent with a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake or a refreshing pint at the bar!

Join us for lots of fun and even a flutter on the donkey races.

SPAJERS is the Bampton Charity supporting pensioners in the village and has been running our traditional events to fundraise for over 60 years – hence our name:

**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT JUNKETTING**

All the money raised each year by SPAJERS goes entirely to our pensioners, each receiving a cash gift at Christmas, as well as annual outings, usually to the seaside, and often a shorter trip, too.

## DONKEY DERBY 30<sup>th</sup> August

- ✚ Sponsor a race and promote your local business.
- ✚ Sponsor your own donkey and give it a name!
- ✚ Volunteer to help on the day and be part of it – there is lots to be done.
- ✚ Simply come along and enjoy the fun!

If you would like to be part of this great Bampton event and help celebrate the fact that we can be together again, enjoying being part of the fantastic Bampton Community, please contact Suzy on 07811 676078.

The **L**

## The Bampton Lowdown Newsletter

Email: [thelockdownpress@gmail.com](mailto:thelockdownpress@gmail.com)

Facebook: [@thebamptonlowdown](https://www.facebook.com/thebamptonlowdown)



Disclaimer. Without prejudice: All views and opinions expressed in The Lowdown publication are those of the individual contributors and do not represent those of the publication nor of its editorial team.